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throw off variants that in taxonomic practise would be considered new species readily distinguished from the parents of the cross and from the F_1 hybrid. I have this past summer found that F_2 hybrids similar in character to the F_1 will in the F_3 generation repeat the performance of the F_2 and throw off again some of the same marked variants.

It is a satisfaction to know that De Vries and Stomps stand firmly by the original definition of a mutation as a germinal variation (and this means inheritable) from a pure stock, *i. e.*, from homozygous material. This is a valuable concept whether or not mutation proves to be a rare phenomenon. Furthermore, one of the most important lines of experimental study is that which will endeavor to determine with precision the conditions under which true mutations may arise. There has been a loose usage of the term mutation which should it become prevalent will take from the word the significance described above, and reduce it to a meaning no more precise than that of a marked germinal variation from any source. If the word mutation is to be kept in the sense of De Vries it must be reserved for germinal variations from homozygous stock.

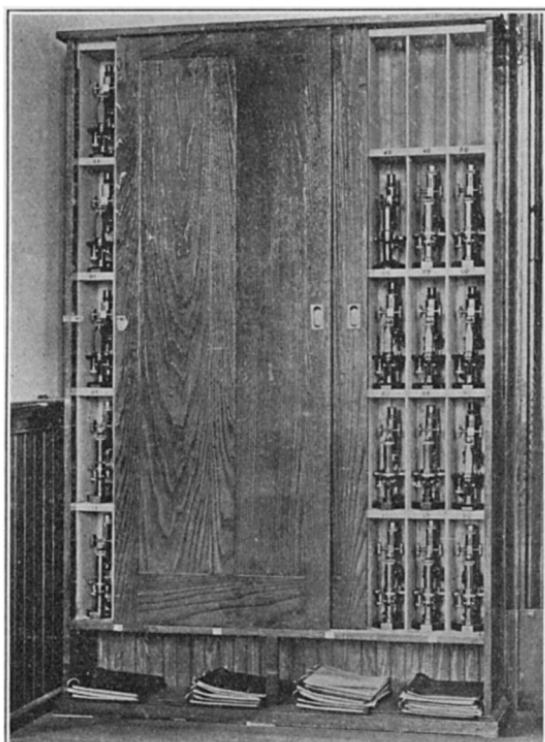
BRADLEY MOORE DAVIS

A CONVENIENT MICROSCOPE CASE

A VERY convenient case for holding microscopes, especially for large, beginning courses where two or more students in different sections use the same instrument, is shown in the accompanying photograph.

The case here shown was built to stand in a shallow offset in the laboratory near a door, and fills a small space that would otherwise be wasted. As is seen from the numbers below the sections, it will hold fifty standard microscopes. Each instrument has a number on the base to correspond to the number on its respective section. Across the floor of each section, at the back, is nailed a 2 in. \times 2 in. strip of wood to stop the base of the microscope and to serve as a shelf for the extra oculars. Holes of the proper diameter in the shelf would hold these oculars more safely. The doors slide easily on a metal track with ball-bearing wheels and have brass pushes set flush with the surface of the wood. They may be fastened with a catch or with a lock and key.

Below the case proper is a shelf to hold laboratory books. An improvement over the case here shown would be to have two shallow shelves, in place of one, divided into sections for the



further alphabetical distribution of the books. The case here described is 84 inches high, 51 inches wide, and 13 inches deep, outside measurements.

There is wasted, of course, a vertical strip about four inches wide in the center of the case where the doors overlap, but it is always hidden, whether the doors be open or shut.

Such a case, if well made, is practically dust-proof, and is economical not only of space but of money as well, since the cost of the individual microscope boxes may be saved in buying new instruments. A case similar to this has been used by the writer for several years and has proved entirely satisfactory.

ALBERT M. REESE